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a robust species and appears to have been originally described by Muller from a depauperate form. The pedicel is obsoletely scabrous.

NOTES FROM MICHIGAN.—The underground stems of *Poa pratensis* do often penetrate and sometimes grow entirely through the tubers of potatoes. I saw a number of such cases last year. The thing is so common I never considered it worth recording. As Prof. Beal suggests, quick-grass may, in some instances, have been spread by this means.

*Quercus bicolor*, common on the banks of Maple and Grand Rivers, often produces abortive acorns in the axils of the cup scales, as has been recorded of *Q. prinoides*, Willd. It would be interesting to know if all the Chestnut Oaks do the same.—ERWIN F. SMITH.

CORRECTION.—In connection with the note on *Panicum litorale*, Vasey, in the last number of the GAZETTE, it should have been stated that the note from Gen. Munro was sent by Dr. Vasey for publication.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*Catalogue of the "Davenport Herbarium" of North American Ferns*, by Geo. E. Davenport.—This Catalogue has just made its appearance and is certainly well done. The Davenport Herbarium contains specimens of every authentic species of Ferns in North America north of Mexico, so that a catalogue of it is nothing else than a complete catalogue of the Ferns of North America. The type is large and clear and the names stand out well on the page, making as complete and convenient a check list as a botanist could well desire. The catalogue contains 32 genera, 142 species, and 16 varieties. Mr. Davenport is sparing in his use of varieties, very wisely deeming it not necessary to admit to such rank every slight deviation. The geographical distribution is based upon Mr. John H. Redfield's paper upon that subject in the Torrey Club Bulletin for Jan., 1875. Six geographical divisions are thus recognized, the names of which are sufficiently clear without definition, viz: Cosmopolitan, Boreal, Appalachian, Pacific, New Mexican, and Tropical. Prof. D. C. Eaton is followed in nomenclature. Mr. Davenport desires to add to the herbarium the remaining vascular cryptogams of the United States, and solicits specimens for that purpose. The Catalogue is well worth the patronage of all botanists, and published as it is at the author's expense, it is but simple justice for all to help bear the expense of that which is to benefit all. We hope therefore that botanists will send promptly to Mr. Davenport for copies, which can be had for 50 cents, by addressing him at Medford, Mass.

*Proceedings of the Acad. Nat. Sci. of Philadelphia.* Part III, Sept.,

Oct., Nov. and Dec., 1878.—The botanical contents are "On the Black Mildew of Walls," by Dr. Jos. Leidy, "Irritable or Sensitive Stamens," "Calluna vulgaris," "Dimorphism in *Mitchella repens*," by Thos. Meehan, and "Aspidium aculeatum in Pennsylvania," by Mr. Crozer Griffith.

*Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, 1877 and 1878.—This makes a very neat pamphlet of 94 pages and is filled with interesting notes in almost every department of science. The botanical section is occupied chiefly in listing the plants of Kansas.

*American Journal of Science and Arts*, April.—Besides the article quoted from above, Dr. Gray has a notice of a paper by Strasburger on "*Polyembryony, true and false, and its relation to Parthenogenesis*." According to Strasburger's investigations the embryo-sac of angiosperms very seldom produces more than one embryonal vesicle which is fecundated. The fact that many seeds contain more than one embryo is explained by the statement that they are adventitious, formed outside of the embryo-sac and enter it by pushing the walls before them or by piercing them. Thus situated they can hardly be distinguished from the embryo that has resulted from fecundation. This then explains the well known cases of *parthenogenesis*.

*American Naturalist*, April.—Mr. E. J. Hill has a note on the "Number of Stamens in *Brasenia peltata*." From a study of specimens from several localities he concludes that the typical number is six, the number ranging from 12 to 36.

*Bulletin of Torrey Botanical Club*, Jan. and Feb.—Francis Wolle has an article on Fresh Water Algæ, being a synopsis of discoveries and researches in 1878. An obituary notice is given of Robt. H. Brownne, who died Feb. 15, 1879, at the age of 69.

*Fern Etchings*, by John Williamson.—Mr. Williamson is preparing a work bearing the above title. It will contain etchings of all the Ferns that have been found in the Eastern and Middle States. The price will be \$7.50 a copy, including mailing. Any one desiring to subscribe for the work can address the author at Louisville, Ky.

*Monographiæ Phanerogamarum*.—The work upon the Monograph of the *Araceæ*, by Dr. Engler, for Vol. 2 of the *Monographiæ Phanerogamarum*, is already advanced. It will form one volume, for the number of known species has very greatly increased. In a third volume will be given Monographs of the *Cucurbitaceæ* by M. Alf. Cogniaux, and the *Araliaceæ* by M. Marchall. Later will be given the immense work of Gen. Wm. Munro upon *Gramineæ*, in the meantime other small families being given.